

Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter March 2012



Hopefully, the lighter nights are on their way and Summer will be here before we know it! The future is also looking bright for the Club with quite a few promising achievements amongst our members since the last Newsletter. Plenty of good news to report, so please read on

Luke Pennell – Junior National Indoor Champion

On 3 December 2011, the GNAS Junior National Indoor Championships were held at The International Centre, Telford and our very own Luke Pennell was crowned Junior Gentlemen Compound Champion. Luke won the Under 18 Gentlemen Compound section, as well as taking the overall Junior Gentlemen Compound title.

He then shot in the Senior National Indoor Championships the following day and finished in 9th place, outscoring some of the top ranked men in the country – a fantastic achievement! Well done, Luke!

SCOA retain the Garrington Cup

During the 2011 / 12 indoor season, we were once again able to field a compound team at all of the Garrington Cup rounds – an inter-club competition for Worcestershire Clubs, based on team scores from six nominated open tournaments.

This culminated in our securing the trophy for the second year in succession at the final round, the WMAS & CWAA Indoor Championships held at Evesham on Sunday 4 March 2012.



Last year's winning team members, Tony Carter and Michelle Hall, were joined this year by new team member, Steve Lines. After dabbling with compound previously, Steve has now fully committed to this discipline, improving his indoor handicap from 40 at the start of the indoor season to a current handicap of 17 – a massive 23 points!

“Team Stourbridge”

Droitwich Winter Tournament – Sunday 11 December 2011

Seven Stourbridge archers (Tony Carter, Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Steve Lines, Keith Raybould and Becky Simonds) took part in the Droitwich Winter Tournament on 11 December 2011.

Tony was awarded third place medal in the Gents Compound and our compound team of Tony, Michelle and Steve also won the Compound Team Trophy, although unfortunately, this was in name only, as the trophy itself had not been returned by last year’s winners!

Our compound team also picked up the maximum 10 points towards our Worcestershire Garrington Cup campaign.

SCOA 25m FITA – Sunday 8 January 2012

We had a good turnout of Stourbridge archers at our 25m FITA on 8 January 2012, with a total of thirteen SCOA members taking part (Tony Carter, Luke Cutler, Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Roger Hanson, Arvon Hutchinson, Jake Jancso, Steve Lines, Keith Raybould, Becky Simonds, Brian Webster, Martin Woodhouse and Tom Woodhouse).

Brian was first in the Gents Longbow; Tom and Jake were second and third respectively in the Junior Recurve and Michelle missed out on the third place medal in the Ladies Compound by one point!

Our compound team also gained another maximum 10 points towards the Garrington Cup.

Waseley proved a successful venue and as a result, we are looking into the possibility of making this competition record status next year – watch this space!

WMAS & CWAA Indoor Championships – Sunday 4 March 2012

Four Stourbridge archers (Tony Carter, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid and Steve Lines) made the trip to Evesham for the WMAS & CWAA Indoor Championships on 4 March 2012.

It was a day of mixed fortunes for SCOA archers, with Tony making a rare error whilst leading the overall Gents Compound competition which resulted in two arrows in the same target face; the rogue arrow lodging itself in the edge of one of the faces where he had already shot a ten, resulting not only in a miss, but the loss of the previously scored ten!

However, Steve had a good day and was awarded the Gents Compound C Class medal in the WMAS Championships and Gents Compound third place medal in the CWAA Championships.

Tony was awarded the Gents Compound B class medal in the WMAS Championships and Michelle was awarded Ladies Compound second place medal in the CWAA Championships.

This was also the final round of the Garrington Cup and our combined compound team score was enough to secure the compound trophy for Stourbridge for the second year running.

And the winner is

Congratulations to Becky Simonds who was recently awarded the Club's Handicap Improvement Trophy for 2011. Becky (pictured right) improved her outdoor handicap by 7 points from 68 to 61 during the period 1 January to 31 December 2011. Well done, Becky!

As well as being awarded the Club's Handicap Improvement Trophy, Becky's handicap improvement of 7 points also earned her the County of Worcestershire Outdoor Handicap Improvement Trophy for 2011.

A number of other Stourbridge archers also improved their outdoor handicaps during the period – the movers and shakers being:-



Name	Year Start Handicap	Running Handicap as of 31.12.11	Improvement
Becky Simonds	68	61	7
David Johnson	57	51	6
Bruce Turley	59	54	5
Michelle Hall	34	30	4
Steve Lines	46	43	3
Alyson Smith	72	69	3
Keith Raybould	57	54	3
Tony Carter	15	12	3
Margaret Hanson	47	45	2
Roger Hanson	35	34	1
Peter Langmaid	41	40	1
Steve Knight	57	56	1
Arvon Hutchinson	66	65	1

Classification Badges

Going forward, the Club will be awarding badges to archers attaining new classifications. To those who don't already have a classification, why not come down to the field and shoot three qualifying scores and get yourselves a third class badge – this could be the start of obtaining the full set! If you already have a classification, then you will be awarded the appropriate badge if you move up to the next class (unless you are already a Bowman, in which case Master Bowman and Grand Master Bowman are awarded via GNAS and can only be attained by shooting the required scores at a designated number of UK or World Record Status events). We hope that the award of classification badges will help to motivate and encourage members to progress in their archery. You never know, the next step could be Olympic Gold!! New classifications will be detailed in the Newsletter, along with new Club Records.

Hutch - King of the Castle!

Catton Hall, Derby

Roving Mark - Sunday 29 January 2012 (Finsbury Mark)



January's annual shoot at Catton Hall Estate, Derby was attended by approx 80-90 longbow archers on a cold and misty Sunday morning. Amongst those shooting were A P Bickerstaff, Lee Ankers and John Holder. Many types of bows were being used such as warbows, flat ones and some really heavy types. Approximately 7 ladies took part, but shot nearer to the targets.

Stourbridge archers Brian Webster, Keith Raybould and Arvon Hutchinson were our Club's participants. After about 5½ hours and walking all round the 500 year old estate, we returned to our cars for refreshments and to tot up our scores (or lack of them!) and discuss why we just missed the targets by inches (or yards) and how glad we were that none of us had got any arrows stuck in the trees, pond, ditches or hedges etc!

Top score was "Hutch" on 125 and he was duly crowned in the usual way by John Holder. As he walked away with his prizes, we could see a grin on his face!

A good time was had by all, despite it being a cold day and a happy, tired bunch with muddy boots went home, ready for the next shoot.

Many thanks to John Holder who sets these shoots up.

The Stick & String Brigade

Archery GB January Challenge

This year, Archery GB once again ran the "January Challenge" postal shoot, whereby GNAS archers were invited to submit their best Portsmouth score shot during the month of January. Submitted scores were subsequently compiled into a ranking order based on bow type and experience, i.e. Beginners (started archery in 2011/12), Experienced and Senior (started archery before 1987).

This year, 1,079 archers from more than 120 Clubs submitted scores and amongst these, there were some really good showings from Stourbridge archers:-

- **Gents – Beginners – Recurve** Colin Dewis - 17th out of 148 archers
- **Gents – Senior – Recurve** Peter Langmaid - 17th out of 34 archers
- **Ladies – Recurve** Becky Simonds - 71st out of 124 archers
- **Gents – Longbow** Bruce Turley - 27th out of 74 archers
- **Gents – Compound** Tony Carter - 27th out of 109 archers
- Steve Lines - 47th out of 109 archers
- Clive Freeman - 95th out of 109 archers
- **Gents – Compound – Senior** Bob Hanson - 16th out of 17 archers
- **Ladies – Compound** Michelle Hall - 9th out of 30 archers
- **Ladies – Compound – Senior** Margaret Hanson - 8th out of 9 archers

Well done everyone!

New Club Records

Ladies Compound

Stafford	-	Michelle Hall	646
Portsmouth	-	Michelle Hall	558
Worcester	-	Michelle Hall	289
FITA 25m	-	Michelle Hall	532
FITA 18m	-	Michelle Hall	541
Bray I	-	Michelle Hall	270

Ladies Barebow

Worcester	-	Sharon Pennell	264
-----------	---	----------------	-----

Boys Compound Under 18

Portsmouth	-	Luke Pennell	586
------------	---	--------------	-----

Boys Recurve Under 16

Portsmouth	-	Luke Cutler	428
FITA 25m	-	Luke Cutler	248

Boys Recurve Under 14

FITA 25m	-	Tom Woodhouse	226
----------	---	---------------	-----

*Dave Johnson
Records Officer*

Postal Leagues

The current standings for the BA Postal Portsmouth and "Frostbite" leagues have not yet been published. However, the latest available standings for the West Midlands Archery Society Winter "Portsmouth" Postal League show SCOA lying 4th in Division 2, after the third round shot in February 2012. Also, a number of Stourbridge archers received a mention for "Highest Made Scores" during the last two rounds. In the second round shot in December 2011 / January 2012, Luke Pennell was the highest scoring Junior Gents Compound; Michelle Hall had the third highest Ladies Compound score and Sharon Pennell was the highest scoring Ladies Barebow with a score of 547 – not bad without a sight! In the February 2012 round, Luke Pennell was once again the highest scoring Junior Gents Compound and Keith Raybould and Bruce Turley had the second and third highest Gents Longbow scores. Jake Jancso also had the third highest Handicap Adjusted Junior Gents score.

Postal Badges

As a thank you to Stourbridge archers putting in scores for the indoor and outdoor postal rounds, the Club has purchased a supply of 500 and 300 badges for archers achieving these landmark scores in the respective rounds.

Portsmouth 500 badges have been awarded to Phil Carter, Tony Carter, Colin Dewis, Clive Freeman, Michelle Hall, Bob Hanson, Margaret Hanson, Roger Hanson, Peter Langmaid, Steve Lines, Luke Pennell, Sharon Pennell and Martin Woodhouse, all of whom have achieved a score of 500 or more for a Portsmouth during this season's indoor sessions.

"Frostbite" 300 badges have been awarded to Tony Carter, Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Bob Hanson, Roger Hanson, Peter Langmaid, Steve Lines and Michael Woodhall, all of whom scored in excess of 300 at the "Frostbite" rounds this season.

Of course, these badges will also be available next season, so if you haven't made these scores yet, there's always next year!

Raffle Prizes

Clive is once again in need of raffle prizes for forthcoming competitions, so if you have any unwanted gifts or would like to make a donation, please let Clive know.

County AGM

There were some promising Club achievements to note from the County of Worcester Archery Association AGM which was held at the end of November.

The results of the **Worcester Summer Trophy** were announced and whilst Malvern were the winners, **SCOA did well to take second place**. Well done to all those archers who shot in the various tournaments that form part of the overall competition (Redhill American, Wyre Forest Western, Droitwich Albion, Malvern Nationals, Stourbridge Albion, CWAA Championships and Redditch Windsors). As the Summer Trophy is handicap adjusted, the scores of those with higher handicaps were just as important as the bonus points we picked up for wins and 2nd and 3rd places, so well done everyone – maybe we can go one better this year!!

Stourbridge archers were also **second** in the **Ladies Individual placings** across all bow types (for points accumulated for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places during the Worcester Summer Trophy tournaments) and **joint second** in the **Gents Individual placings**; Tony Carter missing out on the winner's trophy by only one point – if only he hadn't had to retire from two of the competitions due to equipment failure!

Full results were as follows:-

Worcester Summer Trophy

- 1 Malvern
- 2 **SCOA**
- 3 Droitwich

Worcester Summer Postal League

- 1 Malvern
- 2 Wyre Forest
- 3 Redhill

Stoke Mandeville Gents Trophy

(Individual Archer's Cumulative points for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places – Worcester Summer Trophy Tournaments)

- 1 Steve Short - Malvern (Recurve)
- 2 **Tony Carter** - **SCOA (Compound)**
- 2 Kevin Gayton - Redditch (Recurve)

Stoke Mandeville Ladies Trophy

(Individual Archer's Cumulative points for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places – Worcester Summer Trophy Tournaments)

- 1 Sue Davis - Redditch (Recurve)
- 2 **Michelle Hall** - **SCOA (Compound)**
- 3 Sarah Trout - Evesham (Compound)

Two Stourbridge archers, Michelle Hall and Luke Pennell, were awarded County bars (and brooches) for having made the team at County matches during the 2011 outdoor season and Tony Carter and Keith Raybould were awarded certificates in recognition of having shot at County matches as part of the County squad, but not actually having made the team.

Luke Pennell got a special mention for his achievements at International level and we collected a certificate for Luke's County record for a perfect 300 shot at our Open Worcester competition – quite an achievement, as the previous County record had stood since 1992!

Not a bad night for Stourbridge!

SCOA Juniors

It's good to see that we have a number of enthusiastic juniors regularly shooting at both the indoor and outdoor sessions. As well as our Team GB Junior, Luke Pennell, we also have three regular recurve juniors, Luke Cutler, Jake Jancso and Tom Woodhouse, all three of whom are working their way through their Archery GB Progress Awards. Luke Cutler is the latest of the three to achieve his White Badge and this was presented to him at one of our recent indoor sessions.

If you are one of the other juniors in the Club, with the summer coming, it might be a good opportunity to dust off that equipment and come and make some new archery buddies!

Also, of course, the Archery GB Progress Award Scheme is open to all juniors in the Club and so you might want to have a go at this too, although there is no pressure to do so.

For any juniors feeling even more ambitious, Archery GB is holding a Talent Selection weekend at Lilleshall National Sports Centre on 26 and 27 May 2012. The weekend is open to any archer under 20 years of age who may have what it takes to become a future Olympian. There is no limit on the amount of shooting experience required – beginners are welcome and there is no score-based criteria at this stage. What they are looking for is promising archers who have the drive and determination to become Olympic archers. Further details can be found on the Archery GB website (www.archerygb.org) or in the latest edition of Archery UK magazine.

Centreshot

Some of you will be aware that Centreshot Archery Supplies, Malvern operates a Club Bonus Scheme. Previously, when Club members purchased goods from Centreshot and advised that they were a member of SCOA, the Club benefited from points which could be converted into vouchers at the end of the year – indeed vouchers that had accumulated from 2009 / 2010 went a good way towards purchasing the new net for the indoor at Waseley recently.

The scheme has now been improved to enable individual Club members to obtain bonus points for themselves, as well as the Club. Any Club member purchasing goods through Centreshot's web shop, mail order or in-store will gain 1 point for every £10.00 spent (excluding postage). Points will be added up at the end of the year and converted into vouchers, depending on how much has been spent. Obviously, you would have to spend a fair bit to get any meaningful return, but if you are thinking of buying new equipment, it might be worthwhile and in any event, in the current economic climate, every little helps! Also, of course, the Club benefits too!

SCOA has already been registered in the new scheme and members wishing to take advantage of the individual points scheme will need their own individual swipe card to present in-store. (The number from the swipe card can be quoted when ordering by telephone or on the internet rather than in person).

Further details of the scheme can be found on the Noticeboard in the Clubhouse and if you would like a card, please let Michelle know, so that she can issue you with one.

Please note that if you used Centreshot's old Club Bonus Scheme, you will still need a new swipe card and number to take advantage of the new scheme.

Saturday Shooting

Just a reminder that Saturday shooting is only permitted at the Somers field on the dates advised. We do not pay for the use of the field on Saturdays and we are only able to use the field on certain Saturdays due to the goodwill of the footballers. Please do not jeopardise this arrangement by shooting on Saturdays other than those advised.

Please note that the footballers have a run of home games over the coming weeks and they will be at home every Saturday during March 2012.

The field will therefore not be available for shooting on any Saturday in March 2012.

Michelle will advise of the next available dates in due course.

Avoncroft

The Club will once again be manning a "have a go" stand at Avoncroft Museum on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday (8 and 9 April 2012). Volunteers would be much appreciated to help man the stand on either one or even both of these days. If you are able to help, even for just a couple of hours, please let Margaret or Bob know.

First Aiders

As part of the ongoing process of Health and Safety, we are trying to improve the provision of emergency care in case of accident at the Club. In line with this, we are requesting that any members that have current First Aid certification and are willing to put their names forward to help provide care in an unofficial capacity in case of injury or accident at the Club, contact me to discuss what this would involve.

Jeremy Wakefield
Child Protection, Safety and Welfare Officer

A couple of points relating to housekeeping

We have obtained the necessary agreements to have distance markings and a shooting line on the field which should mean that it will no longer be necessary for the field to be measured out at the start of every outdoor session. These markings will be put in place over the coming weeks which should make life easier. However, please make sure that all of the safety precautions are still put in place before shooting commences including the safety rope, warning signs etc.

Please don't leave food in the Clubhouse, as we currently seem to have a bit of a rodent problem! A couple of offenders have already been caught and apart from the obvious attraction of a warm dry place to spend the cold nights, please don't entice them further by giving them a plentiful food supply! Apart from the obvious hygiene considerations, they can cause havoc with equipment, eating their way through bosses and the like at an alarming rate! How do you think our annual Rat's Ashes shoot got its name!!

Also, you should have received an email with the new codes for the Clubhouse – if you don't have them, please speak to Michelle or Bob and they can give you the relevant information.

Thoughts from the Shooting Line

Which is more dangerous...a great archer or a terrible one?

- A terrible one, because a great one hits where they aim, but a poor one may hit anything!!